



Missouri Solid Waste Transfer Stations

Solid Waste Management Program fact sheet

10/2004

Waste transfer stations are facilities where solid waste is unloaded from collection vehicles and briefly held while it is reloaded onto larger long-distance transport vehicles for shipment to landfills or other treatment or disposal facilities.

To save energy and transportation costs, local governments and the solid waste disposal industry often direct local trash collection vehicles, known as packer trucks, to transfer stations.

The waste is dumped on a collection floor where it is inspected and pushed or loaded into tractor-trailers that deliver it to one of 23 landfills in Missouri or to a landfill out of state.

By combining the loads of several individual waste collection trucks into a single shipment, communities can save money on the labor and operating costs of transporting the waste to a distant disposal site.

Facts about transfer stations in Missouri

- In 1990, the state's Solid Waste Law was modified to encourage recycling and to reduce the amount of solid waste going to landfills.
- Soon after, the federal government established more rigorous "Subtitle D" landfill standards, which resulted in higher costs to develop landfills.
- The waste disposal industry and local governments invested in larger, regional landfills.
- In 1990, there were 72 landfills and 26 transfer stations in Missouri.
- By 1994, when Subtitle D went into effect in Missouri, there were approximately 30 landfills and 30 transfer stations in operation.
- As of 2004, there are 53 transfer stations and 23 landfills in Missouri.
- A Department of Natural Resources survey of transfer station design and operations was completed in 2004.
- The department inspects the permitted facilities a minimum of four times per year.
- Transfer stations are designed based on the projected volume of solid waste brought to the site and the method of operation. Most transfer stations push the waste from the "tipping" floor into an open top trailer that is parked in a pit.
- Transfer stations are designed and operated by the industry or local governments. The department provides some oversight, but there are no state or federal standards on design.
- Some transfer stations are designed to allow separation of materials for recycling. These are called Material Recovery Facilities. Waste not being recycled is loaded on tractor-trailers and sent to the landfill. The recyclables are sold.
- According to Missouri Solid Waste Law and rules, within six months of the receipt of a request for a permit modification, the department shall approve or deny the request.



- When review shows that the request complies with Missouri Solid Waste Law and rules, the department must approve the request and issue a permit for modification.
- When review finds that the request does not comply with the law and rules, the department may either provide a comment letter explaining why the request is deficient or deny the request and explain the reasons for denial.
- If a comment letter is issued, the applicant has 60 days to send the department a complete response. If this response is not provided, the department may deny the modification request.

What the Solid Waste Management Program Reviews

- Types of solid waste accepted
- Letter of approval from the local planning and zoning agency
- Impact on local traffic flow
- Wastewater control
- Surface water monitoring
- Housekeeping schedule
- Daily litter control efforts
- Putrescible waste handling
- All waste handling under roof
- Waste handling will be screened from view.
- Odor, noise and dust control efforts

What the Program Does Not Review

- Effect on property values
- Economic considerations
- Choice of site locations
- Local planning and zoning ordinances

For more information

Visit the department's Web site at www.dnr.mo.gov/alpd/swmp for information about the Solid Waste Management Program, waste management, recycling and waste reduction practices for the home or workplace.

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